

themselves was to be obedient to the king Nebuchadnezzar.

RELIGIOUS.

1. After Josiah every king on Judah's throne was a scoundrel. II Kings 23:31, 32; 23:36, 37; 24:8, 9 and 24:17-20; Jer. 1:18.

2. The princes of Judah followed in the path of the king and sometimes even surpassed him in their wickedness. Jer. 1:18; 24:8; 32:32; 34:21; 37:15. Lam. 1:6; 2:2.

3. The prophets were false prophets and persecuted God's true prophet Jeremiah. Jer. 14:13-16; Jer. 6:13; 8:10; 23:11-14; 28:5-17, etc.

4. The priests in their iniquity and violent spoilings of the people for selfish profit hated Jeremiah and his true but awful words. Jer. 5:31; 1:8; 13:13; 32:32. Lam. 4:13.

5. The people following the example of their king and the base teachings of their spiritual teachers became worse and worse. Jer. 23:34; 2:11-13; 51:26; 8:7; 15:7.

6. All seemed joined together in a compact of sin against God and his prophet Jeremiah. Jer. 26:8-15; 2:26, 27.

7. Surely this was an evil time, which merited the wrath of God.

J. L. GILLIN.

Following Christ

The Kinsman.

It is not enough to begin to follow Christ; we must cleave to him, and continue to follow him. It takes purpose of heart to do this. Christian life is not easy. It means self-constraint, service, struggle and the giving out of one's life in unrestrained measure to those who need. Nothing will be sufficient for such a life but a purpose which takes hold of the very fibers of the being. The new name given to believers defines well what is expected of them. They are to be Christ's men, devoted to him with the deepest love and the most unfaltering earnestness.

Quiet Resting Places

Zion's Herald.

There is always peace in the heart which is conscious of God's presence. "It is because we do not know that he is with us," some one has said, "and more than half doubt that he is anywhere, that we become nervous, irritable, uneasy and unhappy." It is possible to reach such a height of faith as to find perfect freedom from the petty perplexities and daily cares and small worries which produce mental restlessness and physical disease. From these rare altitudes a man looks down on the troubles of life with calm indifference, and looks up to God with serene trust.

The experiences of life can not seriously disturb a soul to whom the infinite seems close at hand. Heaven has already begun in such a heart. Christ's "Peace, be still," has been uttered over all the billows that threaten to toss the bark. It has inward

BRETHREN EVANGELIST

rest, whatever the outward commotion. Environment is a small matter to him who contemplates the Almighty. Not easy of attainment this point of vantage from which to survey the world, this perfect poise of complete faith, but it is well worth all it costs.

Forgiveness

Phillips Brooks.

The true sign of forgiveness is not some mysterious signal waved from the sky; not some obscure emotion hunted out in your heart; not some stray text culled out of your Bible; certainly not some word of mortal priest telling you that your satisfaction is complete. The soul full of responsive love to Christ and ready, longing, hungry to serve Him, is its own sign of forgiveness. Must there not be sorrow for sin? Must there not be resolution of amendment? Surely there must, but it is not sorrow for sin for the sake of the sorrowfulness that Jesus ever wants. He wants sorrow for sin only that it may bring escape from sin. * * * I think that, with all we know of the divine heart of Jesus, He would far rather see a soul trust Him too much, if that is possible, than trust Him too little, which we know is possible enough.

The Gospel of Happiness

Wellspring.

A woman who had many sorrows and heavy burdens to bear, but who was noted for her cheerful spirit, once said in explanation:

"You know I have had no money. I had nothing to give but myself; and so I made the resolution that I would never sadden any one else with my troubles. I have laughed and told jokes when I could have wept. I have always smiled in the face of every misfortune. I have tried never to let any one go from my presence without a happy word or a bright thought to carry with him. And happiness makes happiness. I myself am happier than I should have been had I sat down and bemoaned my fate."

This gospel of happiness is one which every one should lay to heart. Set out with the invincible determination that you will bear burdens, and not impose them. Whether the sun shines or the rain falls, show a glad face to your neighbor. If you must fall in life's battle, you can at least fall with a smile on your face.

The Name of Jesus

Exchange.

Sometimes a name represents a memory, and sometimes it represents a hope, and sometimes a principle. Some names are degraded. They have been tarnished by those who once bore them, and the stain clings to the name as it descends to the generations following. The name of Judas is the synonym of treachery. We seldom write it or speak it or hear it without thinking of the man whose sole distinction is his treason; and if any one should be so unfortunate as to be called by that name, he would always feel that those who gave him the name placed on him a stigma.

There are many honorable names which have been made noble by the conduct and character of those who once bore them. These great and good men and women have transmitted a halo of glory with their names. The name of Washington suggests patriotism; the name of Harvard, philanthropy; the name of Grace Darling, heroism. These are honorable names, exalted names, fragrant names.

What a splendid list of names the Bible furnishes. Each one of these names represents some worthy principle. The name of Abraham represents faith; the name of Moses, meekness; the name of Joseph, purity; the name of Solomon, wisdom; the name of Nehemiah, heroism; the name of Jeremiah, tenderness; the name of Daniel, fidelity; the name of Samuel, integrity; the name of Paul, courage. But the name of Jesus outranks them all, for He exemplified, not one great virtue, but all the virtues, and that, too, in the highest degree of development. His name stands for faith and courage and tenderness and fidelity and heroism, and every noble quality that can enter into the character of a great and good man.

Write down the names of all the great and good whose names are recorded in the Bible and in all history, and opposite each name write the peculiar feature of goodness which distinguished him, and then above them all, far above them, you may write the name of Jesus, for His name represents every good principle known to man. Besides all this, there is no spot on his name. While the best names recorded in the Bible and in history represent many good qualities, each one represents some weakness. Every one had faults. But Jesus was singularly free from sin and weakness. He was altogether lovely. His name is above every name in respect to the character which that name represents. It is like ointment poured forth.

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ears!"

FEAR NOT

REV. HENRY BURTON

Fear not, O soul! the winds that blow
Come from the heavens, and cannot harm;
They only bring the deeper calm—
His peace, who bids them "Come," or "Go."

Fear not the waves that vainly roar,
The angry surges' sullen beat;
They make a pavement for His feet,
Who leads thee to a safer shore.

Fear not the cloud that darkly lowers,
With muffled thunder, rain of tears;
It comes to bless the after years,
And make the earthly, heavenly hours.

Fear not the fire, if thou art tried
In pain, or sorrow's furnace heat;
He seeks to make thy life complete,
As gold by fire is purified.

Fear not what future days may bring;
They only bring what He may send;
The veiled tomorrow is thy friend,
With harp beneath her angel wing.

And so I bid my craven fear
Spread her dark pinions and away!
The shadows flee at break of day,
For Love, Eternal Love, is near.